

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during the interview held November 30, 2004, in the above-identified application. During the interview, Applicants' attorney explained the presently-claimed invention and why it is patentable over the applied prior art, and discussed other issues raised in the Office Action. The discussion is summarized and expanded upon below.

The rejection of Claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. 6,169,163 (Woo et al), is respectfully traversed.

As recited in present Claim 2, the invention is an organic electroluminescent device that comprises organic compound layer(s) including at least one organic emitting layer sandwiched between a pair of electrodes, wherein at least one organic compound layer is formed from an organic compound material and said at least one organic compound layer contains lower than 500 ppm of a halogen-containing compound.

Woo et al neither anticipates nor otherwise suggests the presently-claimed invention.

Woo et al discloses 2,7-dihalofluorenes which are substituted at the 9-position and methods for the preparation of such 9-substituted-2,7-dihalofluorenes; oligomers and polymers of such fluorene compounds; films and coatings prepared therefrom; and light-emitting diodes comprised of one or more layers of polymer films at least one of which is derived from said polymers (column 1, lines 16-25). The Examiner relies on Example 5 therein in finding that Woo et al meets the previously-recited limitation of an impurity concentration being lower than 500 ppm and being a halogen-containing compound.

In reply, Example 5 is drawn to the production of a species of the above-discussed 9-substituted 2,7-dihalofluorene which, as discussed above, is an **intermediate** compound in the production of a polymer used in the form of a film in a light-emitting diode. The purity of Woo et al's intermediate is irrelevant, because it says nothing with regard to any impurity

content that may result when this halogen-containing intermediate is further reacted to form the desired polymer. Indeed, later on in Woo et al, polymers derived from the intermediate of Example 5 and other intermediates is described (column 41, line 48ff). Table 4 therein shows yields ranging from 43 to 97%, thus indicating that a substantial amount of halogen-containing intermediate will remain, which is significantly more than the presently-recited maximum of 500 ppm.

During the above-referenced interview, the Examiner indicated appreciation that the gist of the present invention is to keep the halogen-containing compound amount in the at least one organic compound layer to a minimum, recited as lower than 500 ppm in the present claims. The Examiner agreed that Woo et al neither discloses nor suggests this feature.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection over Woo et al be withdrawn.

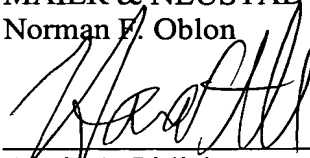
Applicants again note that the Examiner states at page 2 of the Office Action dated April 7, 2004 that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed July 3, 2003 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), and was therefore not considered. However, Applicants also note that the Form PTO-1449 attached to the Office Action with regard to the IDS is initialed by the Examiner, indicating that the IDS was considered. According to MPEP §609, the Examiner is required to consider the references listed therein, because the present application is a divisional application, and the listed references were cited in the parent application. During the above-referenced interview, the Examiner indicated that the IDS was proper, and that the listed references were considered. Accordingly, the Examiner is again respectfully requested to correct the record by indicating that, indeed, the IDS has been considered.

Application No. 10/612,065
Reply to Final Office Action dated October 1, 2004

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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